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THE SCHOOL REVIEW

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WHOLE
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PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEVENTEENTH EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ACADEMIES AND HIGH SCHOOLS AFFILIATING OR CO-OPERATING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF DEANS AND PRINCIPALS.

The seventeenth educational conference of the academies and high schools affiliating or co-operating with the University of Chicago opened Friday, November 13, with the executive session of deans and principals with the Board of Affiliations of the University. The following topics were presented and discussed :

1. Report of the committee appointed at the last meeting upon the increase of credits for admission to the University in English offered by the secondary schools.
 2. Report of the committee appointed to consider the influence of fraternities in secondary schools.
 3. The system of student advisers as an administrative device in high schools, presented for discussion.
 4. The preliminary education which should be completed by the student today who contemplates entering a professional school to prepare for the practice of a profession, especially that of medicine or law.
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INCREASED CREDIT IN ENGLISH.

The report of the committee appointed to consider the question of giving additional credit to English in the entrance requirements of the University will be found in the report of the Departmental Conference in English.

FRATERNITIES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

The committee invited to consider the influence of fraternities in secondary schools begs to report that the time has been too short to collate the experience of the high schools and academies in this respect. The committee appreciates the importance of the subject for its consideration, and deems it worthy of its most careful study. To this end, it has thought it unwise to venture a report at this time, but rather to suggest that a list of questions relative to the presence and influence of these organizations in the leading high schools and academies be prepared for answer, that its conclusions may be formed from as comprehensive a view of the subject as possible.

The character of the investigation proposed may be gathered from the following letter and list of questions that have been prepared tentatively :

DEAR SIR : The accompanying questions are sent by the committee appointed by President William R. Harper of the University of Chicago to report upon the influence of fraternities in secondary schools, to the conference of academies and high schools affiliated or co-operating with the University of Chicago. It is the aim of this committee to collate the experience of the leading academies and high schools ; to make as definite a statement as possible of this particular phase of the social life in our secondary schools ; to note the advantages or disadvantages accruing from the standpoint both of scholarship and of discipline ; to form some conclusions whether the fraternity or sorority shall be considered a condition to be welcomed, to be met by remedial measures where necessary, an evil to be dealt with strenuously, or a matter entirely for the consideration of the parents, and out of the jurisdiction of the school authorities.

Therefore it is asked that principals will give their assistance in fully answering these questions, thus enabling the committee to reach a conclusion based upon the actual experience of high schools and academies.

May we ask you to name a prominent member of a fraternity or a sorority in your school who would be willing to give this committee the fraternity view of this subject ?

Kindly answer in full upon this blank the accompanying questions, and return same to the chairman of the committee at your earliest convenience :

1. Are there fraternities or sororities in your school ? How many of each ?
2. Are these organizations under the supervision of the faculty or recognized in any way by the school authorities ? If under faculty supervision, what regulations are enforced ? Do the fraternities or sororities admit faculty members ?
3. Do these fraternities or sororities occupy rooms in the school building ? Do they maintain chapter houses or rooms outside of the school ? Or are the meetings held at the homes of the members from time to time without fraternity or sorority rooms ? Are these fraternities or sororities connected with national organizations ? Have these organizations, to your knowledge, any rules governing the admission of members and the character of their social life ?
4. Are the members of fraternities or sororities of low, average, or high scholarship ? Where the scholarship is low or average, is it your opinion that it is caused by the fraternity or sorority life, or are there other reasons for scholarship status ?

Can you cite any cases in your school where scholarship has been raised by the emulation of fraternity or sorority life?

5. Do these organizations influence the social life of the school? Do they cause greater discrimination than ordinary school friendships? Do they affect class organizations or the organization of school dramatic, athletic, literary, and musical clubs?

6. Do you feel their influence in the discipline of the school?

7. Are the members of these fraternities and sororities pupils who are leaders in the social life of the school or district in which the school is situated?

8. Is there apparent a feeling of distrust and jealousy on the part of those not invited to join these fraternities or sororities?

9. If there is neither fraternity nor sorority in your school, are there club organizations of a social character without the secrecy of the fraternity? How are they managed? Are they under the supervision of the faculty? What are their tendencies?

10. What is the membership of your school? (Boys)... (Girls)... What is the aggregate membership of the fraternities or sororities? (Boys)... (Girls)...

11. Can you give the committee an idea of the expenses of the organization to the pupil for maintenance, banquets, conventions, etc.?

12. What course would you advise?

a) The abolition of these organizations in secondary schools?

b) Their continuance under faculty supervision?

c) Or their continuance as outside organizations not under school jurisdiction?

Are your objections the same for the organizations of girls as for organizations of boys?

The committee will welcome any suggestion as to matter of investigation or mode of procedure.

Present and concurring: Associate Professor Shepardson, the University of Chicago; Professor T. C. Burgess, Bradley Polytechnic Institute; Principal J. E. Armstrong, Englewood High School; and the chairman.

Absent: Principal B. U. Rannells, Cleveland (East) High School.

For the committee,

SPENCER R. SMITH.

SOUTH DIVISION HIGH SCHOOL,
Chicago.

STUDENT ADVISERS AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE DEVICE IN HIGH SCHOOLS.

SUPERINTENDENT M. A. WHITNEY,
Elgin.

The interpretation which I have made of the question assigned for discussion at this time is that of advisers for the students selected from among the teaching force of the high school, following somewhat the plan in vogue in many colleges. I shall speak briefly of the working of such a plan and